



STATE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, STATE OF HAWAII
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I. Robin Kaye
Theresita Kinnaman
Robert Parsons
Charles Prentiss
Ron Terry
Michael Tulang
N. Mahina Tuteur

Annual Report Committee Meeting
State of Hawai'i Environmental Council
Tuesday, July 2, 2019, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Executive Office on Aging
Room 410, 250 South Hotel Street, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Minutes (Draft)

Members Present: Rob Parsons (Chair), Roy Abe, Tessie Kinnaman
Members Absent: Stephanie Dunbar-Co (Vice-Chair), Robin Kaye
Public/Guests: Riley Fujisaki (House Finance staff), Cindie Ogata, Julie Yang (House Finance staff)

- 1. Call to order, roll call and quorum, introductions.**
Chair R. Parsons called the meeting to order at 11:13 am with a quorum of three members present.
- 2. Review of June 4, 2019 Committee and EC meeting main points.**
Chair Parsons summarized points from June 4 Annual Report and Environmental Council meetings. Questions will be transmitted to five state agencies (DLNR, DAGS, DOT, DOH, DBEDT, plus HTA (subset of DBEDT). Legislative offices (Lowen, Gabbard) asked for input in case there is overlap in budget requests for funding, staff, etc. S. Glenn volunteered to alert department chairs during cabinet meetings of our intent to ask for agency responses and confirmed he spoke with some, not all.
- 3. Review and discussion of suggested questions to submit to selected State agencies.**
 - a. Recommend questions for specific agencies**
 - b. Identify liaison within each agency for optimal communications**

Chair Parsons circulated sheet containing compiled draft questions to all present. (List attached as addendum to minutes). T. Kinnaman stated that many of the questions appear to be money related. R. Abe reminded all the purpose of the Annual Report is to evaluate the State's progress in meeting its environmental goals. Chair Parsons noted that the statute says County, State and Federal. R. Abe says a concern is that it may be hard for State agencies to meet Federal requirements. Members discussed possibly using a Survey Monkey rather than written format. C. Ogata asked about long-term preservation issues and agency goals, and whether agencies were working together. Chair Parsons responded that there is hope that responses may reveal common issues, needs, and opportunities for working together. T. Kinnaman suggested putting the question asking how agencies are doing with the new revised Rules as the very first question. Chair Parsons noted that this discussion was taking place because the Annual Report format is shifting this year to one that hopefully will more closely meet the statutory purpose (HRS section 341-6).

4. **Update on legislative liaisons to environmental committees in House and Senate.**
Chair Parsons affirmed that S. Glenn had reached out to chairs/staff of Environmental committees in House (Rep. Lowen) and Senate (Sen. Gabbard). Chair Parsons also offered to keep House Finance Committee apprised of any official communications from the Council on this subject.
5. **Review of projected timeline to compile and finalize 2019 Annual Report.**
Chair Parsons suggested aiming to transmit questions/survey to State agencies by the Sept. 3rd meeting date. He proposed drafting a more detailed timeline by then. Entire Council may discuss report at July 30 meeting in order to help meet overall timeline.
6. **Other business and public input or testimony**
Members of the public did not offer any further testimony.
7. **Next meeting date and agenda.**
Next meeting date is tentatively set for Sept. 3rd, as the August meeting is moved to July 30 to accommodate Gov. Ige signing the Rules revisions. Agenda items to include draft survey questions to send to select state agencies, also to be considered at July 30 full EC meeting.
8. **Adjournment.**
The meeting was adjourned at 11:57am.

**Questions to ask agencies compiled from Environmental Council Member Suggestions
June 27, 2019**

- With respect to protecting and enhancing the environment, what are some of the areas or actions that your agency should or would like to pursue, but are unable to do so due to limitations in staff and budget? Do you feel that your agency is adequately staffed in terms of both number of staff and technical expertise? What additional staff and funding is needed to meet the minimum requirements and expectations of your agency with respect to the environment?
- For your agency, are the mission statement, objectives and requirements related to protecting and enhancing the environment clear? Are there overlapping responsibilities with other agencies? What can be done to improve efficiency and effectiveness among all the agencies?
- Describe possible opportunities for public-private partnerships to improve your agency's effectiveness and to deal with limitations in staff and funding.
- In your opinion, are funds for staff and projects related to environmental protection and enhancement well spent? Please describe/summarize any tangible results. What are some things that could be done differently to improve efficiency and to do more with less to further benefit the environment?
- Are there any existing federal, state or county regulations and mandated requirements that should be modified, or new ones that should be enacted, to more effectively and efficiently protect and enhance the environment? Please describe.
- Are our environmental protection dollars being spent wisely and in the right places? Please suggest recommended changes in priorities.
- What are your primary environmental goals?
- What are your major environmental challenges? What are possible fixes?
- What are your critical needs?
- Something along the lines of emergency declarations in regards to climate change.
- Similarly, Hawaii's carrying capacity in regards to tourism.
- The major barrier to their environmental progress?
- And, how are they dealing with the revised rules?